

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STATE 129482  
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
MC-02 IO-13 EUR-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00 A-01 OPR-02  
SY-05 AID-05 NEA-10 USIE-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00  
/101 R

DRAFTED BY AF/E:RBAKER:PS  
APPROVED BY AF/E:RSPST  
-----052001Z 077260 /63  
O 051934Z JUN 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY VICTORIA IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 129482

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, PDIP, SE

SUBJECT: SEYCHELLES COUP D'ETAT - REUTER'S ITEM

1. FOLLOWING FOR POST'S INFORMATION IS EXCERPT FROM  
JUNE 5 REUTER'S REPORT DATED LONDON:

2. BEGIN TEXT: PRESIDENT JAMES MANCHAM DECLARED TODAY  
THAT A REPORTED COUP IN HIS INDIAN OCEAN ISLANDS REPUBLIC  
OF THE SEYCHELLES HAD BEEN HELPED BY A SOVIET CONSPIRACY  
AND CALLED ON THE WEST AND AFRICAN NATIONS TO INTERVENE.

MR. MANCHAM, WHO CAME TO LONDON FOR THIS WEEK'S COMMON-  
WEALTH SUMMIT, SAID HE DID NOT ACCEPT THE COUP AS A FAIT  
ACCOMPLI.

"I AM PERSONALLY CONVINCED THAT THE ACTIONS TAKEN HAVE  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 129482

BEEN DONE WITH THE ACTIVE AGREEMENT AND CONNIVANCE OF THE  
SOVIET GOVERNMENT AND IS PART AND PARCEL OF THE SOVIET  
POLICY OF CONTROLLING THE INDIAN OCEAN," HE TOLD A HASTILY  
GATHERED PRESS CONFERENCE.

HE SAID HE WOULD GO BACK TO THE SEYCHELLES IF THE  
UNITED NATIONS OR THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY TOOK

CONTROL OF THE COUNTRY AND ARRANGED FREE ELECTIONS.

THE 37-YEAR-OLD PRESIDENT, WHO HAS A REPUTATION FOR BEING A PLAYBOY, HEARD OF THE COUP THIS MORNING WHILE STAYING AT HIS LUXURY, 245-DOLLAR-A-NIGHT SUITE AT LONDON'S SAVOY HOTEL.

BUT HE TOLD THE PRESS CONFERENCE: "I DO NOT ACCEPT THIS ACTION AS A FAIT ACCOMPLI."

HE SAID THOSE "WHO ARE SUPPOSED TO HAVE TAKEN OVER ARE MEMBERS OF A MINORITY PARTY WHO ARE SELF-ADMITTED TO BE MARXISTS."

HE BLAMED THE WESTERN WORLD FOR NOT GIVING HIM ENOUGH SUPPORT AND AT ONE POINT HE TOLD THE REPORTERS BITTERLY: "I AM A VICTIM OF THE FACT THAT I HAVE BEEN A FRIEND OF THE WEST."

"IT IS A QUESTION OF WESTERN RESOLUTION," HE SAID. "THE SUPPORT ONE GETS IS RATHER HALF-HEARTED, BUT THE SOVIET UNION, ONCE IT IDENTIFIED A GROUP, SUPPORTED IT UP TO THE HILT."

MR. MANCHAM WAS REPEATEDLY PRESSED AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE FOR EVIDENCE OF SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN THE COUP.

MR. MANCHAM SAID HE HAD BEEN WARNED BY THE UNITED STATES CHARGE D'AFFAIRS WHOM HE NAMED AS GREG MATSON, BUT THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 STATE 129482

PRESIDENT DID NOT CLARIFY PRECISELY WHAT THIS WAS.

HE SAID THAT MR. MATSON "FELT THERE WAS SOMETHING TO WATCH WITH RESPECT TO THE CONNECTIONS OF THE PRIME MINISTER" (PRIME MINISTER ALBERT RENE, 41, LEADER OF THE PEOPLE UNION PARTY, WHICH HAD BEEN IN COALITION WITH MR. MANCHAM'S DEMOCRATIC PARTY).

MR. MANCHAM SAID MR. RENE -- NAMED IN THE LATEST REPORT FROM THE SEYCHELLES TONIGHT AS THE REPUBLIC'S NEW PRESIDENT -- HAD A PAST OF CONNECTIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION. ASKED IF THERE WERE A MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY ON THE ISLANDS, MR. MANCHAM SAID: "I HAVE NO IDEA THAT THERE ARE ANY CIA MEN IN THE SEYCHELLES, PERHAPS THERE SHOULD HAVE BEEN ONE."

MR. MANCHAM SAID THE ACTION OF THOSE IN THE COUP WAS A REPETITION "OF THE JUDAS ESCARIOT STORY." HE SAID THAT "THESE MEN WERE DINING WITH ME AND THEY CAME AND KISSED ME

GOODBY AT THE AIRPORT" WHEN HE LEFT FOR THE LONDON  
CONFERENCE, WHICH BEGINS ON WEDNESDAY. END TEXT.  
CHRISTOPHER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, PRESS CONFERENCES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 05-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977STATE129482  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** RBAKER:PS  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770200-0479  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770689/aaaadagn.tel  
**Line Count:** 119  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 7993b784-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN AF  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 19-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2270831  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SEYCHELLES COUP D'ETAT - REUTER'S ITEM  
**TAGS:** PINS, PINT, PDIP, SE, UK, (MANCHAM, JAMES)  
**To:** VICTORIA  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/7993b784-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009